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Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Youth Choir, Orchestra wrap 2009 tour

By Tony Martin
Associate Editor

The Mississippi Baptist All-State Youth Choir and Orchestra (MBASYC&O) completed its annual summer tour at First Church, Jackson, on June 16. The group began with its rehearsal camp at William Carey University on June 8 - 11, and toured June 10 - 16, with performances at Salem Heights Church, Laurel; First Church, Long Beach; Desoto Hills Church, Southaven; Clarksdale Church, Clarksdale; First Church, Houston; and First Church, West Point. The group also served in a Delta Ministry Day on June 13.

The group began in 1991 with a God-given vision in the hearts of Graham Smith, director, and Susan Luttrell, youth music/drama consultant for the Church Music Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB), to musically and spiritually strengthen Mississippi Southern Baptist high school students.

The choir has grown from 45 members in 1993 to over 110 singers. Ninth through 12th grade students audition and interview each fall for positions with the choir and orchestra. The group has presented concerts in churches throughout Delaware, Maryland, Mississippi, and the southeastern United States. They have been privileged to be featured in concert at the Southern Baptist Church Music Conferences in Nashville and New Orleans.

"When we started the choir years ago, we wanted to help students have relationships with others who have similar interests," Luttrell said. "We were so limited in our vision, because the Lord has taken this and done amazing things in the lives of the young people involved."



BANNERS FOR CHAPLAINS — A group of students with the Mississippi Baptist All-State Youth Choir and Orchestra and their family group leader, Peggy Sneed, construct a "Lord is My Shepherd" banner for use by military chaplains. (Photo by Turner Luttrell)

"We hear over and over from these young people that what they have done in the choir and orchestra is the best thing they've ever done," Luttrell continued. "Sometimes these young people are the only young people in their church who can sing a part, who sing in the choir, and then they find themselves with 114 other students who are like them. They are encouraged by knowing what the Lord has given them is unique and important."

One unique facet of this year's concert tour was the ministry the group had to military chaplains serving in Iraq and Afghanistan. The group designed and created twenty worship banners.

The vision for this ministry began with the request from Susan Newell, ministry assistant at Wildwood Church, Clinton. Her son, Specialist James Newell, assistant to Chaplain Ed Harris, of the U.S. Army 4th Infantry, Attack Reconnaissance Battalion serving in Iraq, shared the chaplain's request to have banners to enhance the worship experience in the field chapels.

The choir, divided into 20 family groups, made one banner per group. The choir paused in the middle of a very busy concert tour to complete the banner construction at Clarksdale Church. The banners were cut out and hemmed by members of First Church, Madison, and Utica Church, Utica. Five chaplains were presented with a set of four banners each: a Christmas banner, an Easter banner, a patriotic or Thanksgiving banner, and a banner featuring a non-seasonal scriptural inspirational theme. The banners were on display at the final concert at First Church, Jackson.

The group is noted for other ministry projects over the years, including Katrina storm damage cleanup on the

Mississippi Gulf Coast; nursing home ministry in Columbus; collecting and making donations to assist continued Katrina storm ministry in Pearlington; and donations of phone cards and care packages for American military personnel in Iraq.

The students and the churches they represent provided four scholarships enabling Gulf Cost volunteer and bivocational ministers of music to participate in the 2008 Southern Baptist Church Music Conference in New Orleans.

Richard Joiner, the former chair of the Music Department at Mississippi College, directed the choir for its first 10 years of ministry. Jamie Meaders, current chair of the Music Department at Mississippi College, has served as choral director since 2003. The orchestra is conducted by David Young, instrumental consultant for the MBCB Church Music Department.

Meaders typically chooses 40 minutes of music — nine to ten anthems — and attempts to present literature that will challenge the choir, introduce them to different styles, and fit cohesively as a program.

"I thought it was important 17 years ago, but now I have a passion that I didn't have then," Luttrell said. "I believe things have changed so much in our youth culture that the opportunity students have to sing in a choir, to sing this kind of music, to play in an orchestra are very limited. I believe that years from now these students will be able to look back and say, 'You know, when I was a kid, look what I was able to do. And I want other kids to have the same experience I did.' I believe we are planting seeds that will propagate this ministry for years to come."

For more information about the MBASYC&O, contact Luttrell at (601) 292-3267 or outside Jackson at (800) 748-1651. Email scluttrell@mbcb.org.

MISSISSIPPI
BAPTISTS



FINAL CONCERT — Jamie Meaders, chair of the Music Department at Mississippi College, directs the Mississippi Baptist All-State Youth Choir and Orchestra at the end of their 2009 concert tour at First Church, Jackson, on June 16. Two of the worship banners made by choir members can be seen in the background. (Photo by Turner Luttrell)



EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK



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Frankly I had thought that at the time Roe was decided, there was concern about population growth and particularly growth in populations that we don't want to have too many of. — U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, New York Times Magazine, July 12, 2009

The "Roe" to which Ginsburg is referring in the above quote is, of course, *Roe v. Wade*, the infamous 1973 U.S. Supreme Court ruling that legalized abortion in all 50 states during the entire nine months of pregnancy.

If there has been one contention of pro-lifers that has drawn the most ridicule from the political and social elites who support the concept of abortion at any time and under all conditions, it is the contention that the procedure is a most effective means of accomplishing eugenics — a term coined by Planned Parenthood founder Margaret Sanger as a way to explain her organization's efforts to control certain populations.

"The mass of Negroes, particularly in the South, still breed carelessly and disastrously, with the result that the increase among Negroes, even more than among whites, is from the portion of the population least intelligent and fit, and least able to rear children properly," Sanger famously wrote in the early part of the 20th century.

So it was that Sanger kicked off her "Negro Project" in 1939, with the idea that she could use African American ministers to help her carry out her ghastly plan to eliminate an entire race.

"The most successful educational approach to the Negro is through a religious appeal," she wrote condescendingly. "We do not want the word to get out that we want to exterminate the Negro population, and the minister is the man who can straighten out that idea if it occurs to any of their more rebellious members."

Switch to the present. Contrast those words with the pronouncement of U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg in the July 12 issue of New York Times Magazine, as quoted at the beginning of this commentary, and there's not an ounce of difference. The pro-lifers are right, after all.

In the interest of fairness, the Times interview with Ginsburg, the former chief legal counsel for the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), and a radical abortion supporter, was not wholly about abortion and eugenics. Ginsburg also affirmed the struggle for gender equality and discussed what it was like to serve as a female on a predominantly male court. (Ginsburg and the now-retired Sandra Day O'Connor are the only two women to have served on the high court.)

Nonetheless, it is troubling to know that supporters of Margaret Sanger's vision remain committed even after 70 years and a civil rights revolution. Her

Planned Parenthood organization, now the largest abortion provider in the country and the recipient of over 300 million dollars annually in taxpayer funds from the federal government, has been wildly successful in the ghastly work of Sanger that Ginsburg apparently supports wholeheartedly.

Alveda King, head of Priests for Life and a niece of civil rights icon Martin Luther King Jr., writes that although African Americans make up only 12% of the U.S. population, 35% of all abortions in the country are performed on African Americans.

"We are the only minority in America that is on the decline in population. If the current trend continues, by 2038 the black vote will be insignificant," she observed.

The moral here is that evil can be fought and overcome by good people, but it never really goes away. In fact, Satan regroups and reappears wherever he can, using whatever means necessary to win.

In this case, the evil of legalized infanticide has been harnessed to advance the evil of eugenics, which has been harnessed to advance the evil of racism, which has been harnessed to advance the evil of genocide, which has been harnessed to advance the destruction of the soul of mankind.

We know how the struggle with evil will ultimately be resolved, but has our generation really sunk to the level of banally accepting infanticide, eugenics, racism, and genocide as part of our culture?

Read, and weep.

GUEST OPINION: *Read health legislation closely*

By Barrett Duke
Ethics & Religious Liberty Comm.
Nashville

Henninger writes, "Medicaid is a morass. Since the program's inception, Congress has loaded it up every few years with more notions of what to cover, shifting about 43% of the ever-upward cost onto someone else's tab, mainly the states."

There is no reason to think that Congress will exercise any restraint with a new health plan. As Congress loads more benefits onto the plan, the costs will skyrocket in the same way they have for Medicaid. While the government will certainly raise taxes and/or premiums to pay for the higher costs, it will eventually have to resort to the same rationing scheme under which people in England and Canada are suffering.

In England, it is illegal for doctors even to tell patients about drugs that the country's health care rationing body has determined to be too costly. In Canada, a person literally can die while waiting for rationed treatment.

Making it possible for every person to get and keep health insurance is a pro-life value worthy of everyone's support, but I do not believe it is necessary to throw our other pro-life values under the bus in order to achieve that worthy goal.

Duke is vice president for public policy and research at the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission in Nashville. His commentary appears courtesy of Baptist Press.

So. Baptists fighting hunger during drought

ILMAMEN, Kenya (BP) — The rains come too late for the crops. Cows, selling for about \$5, have no meat on their bones. The drought's damage will be fatal for many people.

From the Maasai Mara wildlife reserve in Kenya to Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania — about 11,700 square miles — everyone is hungry.

"The problem is that there is no grass," Bob Calvert says. "There is not enough water, not enough rain. For the past month, as I was waiting on relief supplies to come, I have been cutting grass around Nairobi to take to pastures for their animals to eat."

Calvert, a missionary with International Mission Board (IMB) of the Southern Baptist Convention, lives outside Kenya's capital, Nairobi. He partnered with Baptist Global Response, an international relief and development organization, to deliver nearly \$500,000 worth of flour and cooking fat to women between May and July.

The money, provided by Southern Baptists through their World Hunger Fund, was enough to feed 180,000 people for one month at a cost of \$2.70 per person.

"Pastors started coming to me in November of last year to tell me that they needed food," Calvert recounts. "I told them to start collecting names of those who needed the food immediately — women, orphans, old men, those with no other income."

Pastors in 238 churches collected the names of 29,280 women whose families needed food. The reason for identifying the need through women is that some men have as many as four wives. This way each woman can feed her children.

Baptist Global Response worked with Calvert to develop a strategy for providing sta-



PRECIOUS COMMODITY — Joy and gratitude radiate in the smiles of Maasai women who know their families will have something to eat for the next month thanks to Southern Baptists' World Hunger Fund. (BP photo)

ple foods to people suffering in Kenya's Rift Valley area.

"Cyclical hunger in Africa is a fact of life," says Mark Hatfield, who with his wife Susan directs Baptist Global Response work in Sub-Saharan Africa. "Environmental changes, in association with land use methods that have degraded the environment, along with a series of very poor rainy seasons, brought about this need for assistance."

Each woman received 12 five-pound bags of flour and one tub of cooking fat. While the distribution will stave off hunger for a month, it will be six months before families will have an opportunity to plant new crops.

Pastor Jon, located near the

Maasai Mara, tells Calvert there has been no rain in his area. "We are eating dust," Jon says.

When word spread that relief supplies had arrived, about 2,000 people, mostly women, hiked more than an hour to assemble at one of the distribution points, IImamen Baptist Church, located in a village about two hours south of Nairobi.

Agnes Mongela has eight children. For the past four years, she has not had more than one meal every other day. After waiting in a neighboring schoolyard for seven hours Agnes hears her number called and, smiling broadly, crosses over to the church to get her food.

The women tie the 60-plus pounds of food onto their backs and prepare for the long trek home. They center the rope, made from dried cowhide or sisal, on top of their heads and balance the food on their lower backs.

They chatter happily about the food they received. It was more than they expected. Not everyone will get food today, however. At each church, only slightly more than a thousand women are on the list to receive food. The other thousand will beg for a small share.

During a two-month period, 10 people died because food is so scarce. One family lost a father, mother, and child when a boulder fell on them while they were hand-cutting grass for their animals on a steep mountainside.

The price of flour has risen greatly in the past year. The locals cannot afford it. The many aid organizations located in Kenya are out of money to feed the millions of people who still need food. Some of the people in need, however, are being helped — because Southern Baptists cared.

Editor's note: For more information on Baptist Global Response, visit gobgr.org.

Looking back

10 years ago

All 330 churches in New South Wales, Australia, join forces to create Reach Out 2000, an evangelistic outreach to the three million international visitors to Sydney during the Summer Olympic Games.

20 years ago

The William Carey College board of trustees releases a 56-page Mississippi Baptist Education Commission report on conditions at the college, along with 12 resolutions passed by the Carey trustees noting an immediate need for more money to implement needed corrections.

30 years ago

W.A. Keel, president of the Mississippi Baptist Seminary for the past two years, retires as of July 1. The school is under the direct supervision of the Negro work department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.



MISSISSIPPI
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THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

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1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)

2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)

3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)

4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

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XDY CM W MICVCR:
WKY RNUS RNWR
JDVMNCI NCT TLMR
JDVMNCI NCT CK
MICVCR WKY CK
RVRLN.

FDNK BDLV: RJUKRS-
BDLV

Clue: J = W

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Luke Twenty-Four: Thirty-Nine

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HANGING ON

I was walking across the parking lot toward a business the other day when my eye caught sight above and to the right of me a bird flying in that direction. It was not just a bird, it was a huge, beautiful hawk. He looked to be about 50 to 75 feet off the ground and had a majestic wingspread of better than three feet. It was worth a momentary pause to watch this creature pass over.

Now the business that I was walking toward was fairly new construction, and it had one of these modern tin roofs. I am not sure if they are made out of tin or not, but you probably know what I am talking about. You see them everywhere on houses and businesses. The roof had a steep slant and this slick tin covering. Little did I know that my bird friend was headed in that direction to make a landing. I suppose that he had landed on roofs before but not like this one. I watched him as he flew directly into the middle of the roof. Now we were only 20 or 30 feet from each other, and he was in a heap of trouble.

From where I stood, you could actually see his talons grabbing to find something to hold on to on the sloping roof, but there was nothing to grab. He started sliding down that roof. He had his wings spread not to fly but to flap, keep balance, and to keep him from tumbling over on his head. With all of his efforts, he was still slowly sliding down that slick cover. For two, three, four, five, six feet or better he kept sliding and, of course, would have fallen off the edge except there was a vent pipe that was sticking through the roof that stood between him and falling off the ledge. He hit that pipe with his wings still spread and his talons still grabbing. He stopped, and it was such an awkward and embarrass-

ing moment. He looked around and saw me. He wanted to say something, but how do you explain that kind of awkwardness?

We probably have all been there but it was his day to experience it. He turned his head away from me and slowly pulled in his powerful wings as though he was not sure if he was going to stay where he was. You could see him as he took a deep breath and just sat there leaning against a pipe on a slanted roof. It was at that point that I wanted to say to him, "Old boy, I know how you feel, and I and a lot of other folks that I know have gone through and maybe are going through your same situation right now."

These are tough times in our world. It does not matter if you are talking about the economy, swine flu, religious beliefs, ethical issues, or hostile world leaders; we are dealing with some major crises and at times painful slides. So many have lost jobs and some have lost businesses and income. Whether watching the stock market or wondering what tomorrow may hold, you occasionally go through those moments that make you feel like that hawk on the tin roof. As the people of God, what are we supposed to do? How do you get through these experiences? Please allow my hawk friend to give us some lessons.

The first thing to do is rest. I watched that big bird of prey as he hit that roof and clumsily tried to figure out what to do as he flapped, slipped, and grabbed, but then when he came to a momentary stop you could almost see him take a deep

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Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
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He is looking at you and is ready to lift you up. Will everything today be different from yesterday? It may not be, but everything in you facing today can be renewed.

The third lesson is to resume. As you can imagine, within just moments as I walked along, got closer to him, and stood there watching him, this beautiful hawk lifted up and began to soar once again. I imagine he put a small note in his brain not to try to land on that roof again. He went on to bigger and better things. He went on to inspire me as he flew upward and onward. He went on doing what he was made to do. God has a purpose and a wonderful, exciting plan for every one of us.

Through the years, I have found two great resources to be very meaningful in the difficult times. One is that in the worst of times and in the most difficult of situations things do change. Regardless of whether it is the darkness of World War I or the incredible conflict of World War II, a 911 event or a deep recession, things do change. They do not remain the same, and in time, there will be new sunrises. But more importantly is the fact that we do not design our lives around the low points of the economy but the leading of a great God.

We look to Him, for even through these moments He is preparing us for the work that He has for us to do. After my hawk friend slid down, bumped against the vent pipe, and then rose up and flew away with his head lifted high to face a new experience, it was almost as if I could hear him say, "This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it" (Ps. 118:24). Let us rejoice also.

The author can be contacted at jfutral@mcb.org.

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Brookhaven, Miss., is seeking a part-time music minister, worship leader to lead in blended worship. Send resumes to Mt. Zion Baptist Church, 680 Mt. Zion Road, NW, Brookhaven, MS 39601.

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Association is now accepting resumes for Associational Missions Director through July 31, 2009. Please send resumes to Dr. Rex Yancey, AMD search committee chairman, 202 East Pine Street, Ripley, MS 38663.

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FBC, HORN LAKE, MISS., IS SEEKING
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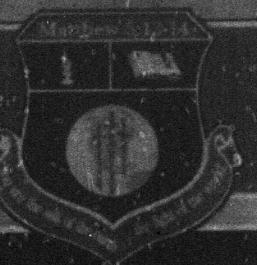
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Vicksburg, Miss., is accepting resumes for a F/T Pastor, reply to pastor search committee, 28 Mingos Road, Vicksburg, MS 39183.

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a part-time (Sundays) music minister. Please send resume to Lisa Smith, P.O. Box 418, Roxie, MS 39661 or contact lisajanesms@hotmail.com. Phone is 601-322-9011. Deadline for submitting is August 1, 2009.

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Practical Principles for Christian Living



Obama and Gore: The CO₂ Global Warming Hoax

By Rob Chambers
Miss. Baptist Christian Action
Commission



Chambers

People can look back over their lifetime and recall extreme weather conditions like floods, ice storms, tornados, tsunamis, and hurricanes. Are these weather conditions natural or human induced? There are two primary theories used to explain extreme changes in climate.

The first theory indicates humans are responsible for global warming because of man's use of fossil fuels for energy. This theory, having been disproven for some time now, continues to fuel the global warming agenda of both the Obama administration and Al Gore.

Such political forces continue to use this disproven theory to motivate the public — out of fear — to willingly succumb to higher taxes so that Obama can create and Gore can benefit from government subsidized businesses that manufacture "green technology" like electric cars, solar shingles, and windmills.

The global warming debate began with a research paper written in 1957 by Dr. Roger Revelle. He made a correlation between increased levels of carbon dioxide (CO₂) and warming of the earth. (CO₂ is a byproduct of burning

fossil fuels like coal, gasoline, and diesel.) He thought that as fossil fuel consumption increases so does the earth's temperature.

No good scientific evidence supports the alarming link between CO₂ and global warming as indicated by

Obama and Gore. In fact, this theory has been disproven in light of historical warming and cooling trends.

Two historical periods have experienced global warming in absence of the production of CO₂: the "Roman Warming Period" (200 B.C. — 600 A.D.) and the "Medieval Warming Period" (950 A.D. — 1350 A.D.). Roman chariots didn't run on gas and neither did medieval waterwheels and windmills.

Another defeating blow to the CO₂ hoax is that the earth experienced a significant cooling period from the 1940s to the late 1970s. This cooling period is when fossil fuel consumption and CO₂ levels were on the rise.

So what caused the earth to warm when fossil fuels were not used for energy, and what caused the earth to cool when they were?

Danish scientists have recently proven a cause for this change in global temperature. They discovered a relationship between the sun's output (radiant energy and solar wind) and the earth's temperature. Without going into great detail, as solar wind increases, so does the earth's temperature, and vice versa. This explains the global warming trend when mankind was not producing CO₂, as in the Roman and Medieval warming periods, and the cooling period when CO₂ production was on the rise in the 20th Century.

Even with scientific proof that CO₂ does not cause climate change, politicians now want to turn a blind eye to the condemning evidence against them and continue pointing their finger to you and punish you as the culprit of global warming. Why? The answer is money, politics, and power.

The current administration's plan is to use the CO₂ hoax to create a new "green industry" that a market-based economy will not support and force taxpayers to foot the bill for its creation.

Unfortunately, legislation that will help accomplish Obama's goal has already passed the U.S. House, but the Senate has not yet voted on it. (Tell Miss. Senators Cochran and Wicker to vote no on H.R. 2454.)

Al Gore, a former student of Dr. Revelle, is also a member of the venture capital firm Kleiner Perkins in CA. The firm's goal is to be a leader in the "green economy," but Gore is a politician. Why has a venture capital firm hired a politician to help "fund" a new green tech industry?

Gore and others could stand to profit greatly from the CO₂ hoax if U.S. legislation like H.R. 2454 passes. This bill will impose utility taxes that will increase electric rates 90% by 2035. The tax revenue will be passed on to investors of green tech businesses "to help reduce CO₂ emissions." This is only the beginning; we haven't even gotten to what Obama wants to do with your house.

There's nothing wrong with green technology, but using doomsday global warming fear and bad science as a tool to deceive and pillage taxpayers just to make investors in "green technology" wealthy is all together another thing.

Regardless of CO₂ production, extreme changes in the climate will persist. The only difference between then and now if "green tech" wins is that taxpayers may have a windmill in their back yard, but they will pay higher taxes, have bigger government, and make investors in green technology rich.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

1. Enon Church, Louisville



1. Enon Church, Louisville, conducted Vacation Bible School on June 15-19. Shown are participants. Taylor Yarbrough, director. Charles Rook, pastor.

2. Bluff Springs Church, Magnolia: June 8 - 12. Shown are the participants.

3. Bunker Hill Church, Columbia: June 8 - 12; total enrollment, 209; eight decisions to receive Christ; \$1,034 offering to purchase 240 Bibles for "Operation Worship" for military. Shown are the participants.

4. Corinth Church, Heidelberg, recently held Vacation Bible School. Pictured are participants. Jeane Nolan, director.



3. Bunker Hill Church, Columbia

2. Bluff Springs Church, Magnolia

MISSISSIPPI
BAPTISTS



4. Corinth Church, Heidelberg



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JUST FOR THE RECORD



1. Slayden Church, Slayden



2. Midway Church, Pontotoc Association



3. Prairie Church, Monroe Association



4. Griffith Memorial Church, Jackson



5. Liberty Church, Carroll Association

1. The Performing Arts Ministry of Slayden Church, Slayden, presented their first recital on June 14. Pictured are participants.

2. Baby dedication was recently held at Midway church, Pontotoc Association. Pictured are D.J. and Emily Fields with Leah (left), and Billy and Sarah Walton with Mason. Tommy Tackett is pastor.

3. Prairie Church, Monroe Association, held baby dedication on Mother's Day 2009. Pictured are participants.

4. Griffith Memorial Church, Jackson, held their annual Christian Bike Rally on June 27. Pictured are some of the participants in the event.

5. Liberty Church, Carroll Association, honored their fathers on Father's Day June 21. Pictured are (from left) Scot Simmons, youngest father; Barry Dubard, most family; and Ed Tharp, oldest father. Gary Tanner, pastor.

6. Members of Pinelake Church, Brandon, form a prayer chain before departing for ministry opportunities in the area surrounding the University of the Cumberlands in Williamsburg, Ky. A total of 208 middle schoolers and 22 adults from Pinelake Church participated in a week of worship, work, and fun while staying at the university.

7. The "Lively Bunch" of Robinwood Church, Saucier, visited the Baptist Building in Jackson on June 9 to view the 50 million pennies in the Memorial to the Missing, each penny of which represents one life lost since abortion was legalized by the U.S. Supreme Court in 1973.

8. The children's ministry of First Church, Hazlehurst, had a patriotic celebration July 1. Shown are some of the participants.

9. New Providence Church, Copiah Association, recognizes its Bible drillers. Shown are the participants.

10. Twelve members of Whitesand Church, Prentiss, traveled to Midwestern Seminary, Kansas City, Mo., to help with repairs and painting of the facility. The group also did repairs and painting at Longview Church where their former youth minister, Jay Hayes, is now pastor. Shown are the participants.



6. Pinelake Church, Brandon



7. Robinwood Church, Saucier



8. First Church, Hazlehurst

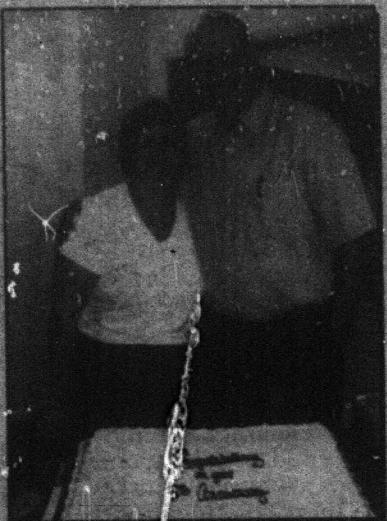


9. New Providence Church, Copiah Association



10. Whitesand Church, Prentiss

JUST FOR THE RECORD



11. First Church, Plantersville



12. The Douglasses



15. Graham and Stribling



16. Randall and McGowan



17. Oak Grove Church homecoming



18. Oak Grove Church Bible drillers



19. First Church, New Albany, Acteens

11. First Church, Plantersville, honored pastor Danny Balint and his family on his fifth anniversary as pastor. Church members also presented him with a suitcase of money to help with the expenses of a cruise planned for later this year.

12. The Mid-Delta Association honored former AMD Bobby Douglas with a retirement reception June 22. Shown are Douglas and his wife Cynthia.

13. South 28th Avenue Church, Hattiesburg, dedicated their new chapel July 5. Gregory Burks, pastor.

14. Cedar View Church, Olive Branch, is hosting a community singing July 18, with dinner at 5 p.m. and a concert by the Joyful Noise Quartet at 6. For information, call (662) 895-2661.

15. The Christian Women's Job Corps of Philadelphia rewarded Lisa Graham, left, and Rose Stribling certificates from the 16-week Jobs for Life training program.

16. First Church, Richland, licensed Brad Randall and Zack McGowan to the gospel ministry. Shown are Randall and McGowan.

17. Oak Grove Church, Simpson Association, had record attendance for their 150th anniversary and homecoming service. Shown are the participants.

18. Oak Grove Church, Simpson Association, recognizes its Bible drillers. Shown are Kevin White, minister of youth; drillers Maegan Griffith and Aston Smith; and Candy Smith, leader.

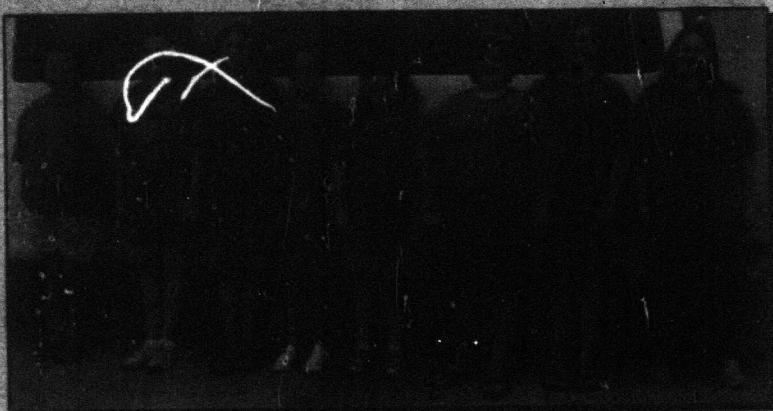
19. The Acteens of First Church, New Albany, were recognized recently in their annual recognition service. Twenty-two girls were honored. Shown are the participants.

20. Calvary Church, Columbia, raised money for the Crisis Pregnancy Center of Lawrence County by filling 50 baby bottles with coins. The 50 bottles represent the 50 million babies that have been aborted. The church ultimately collected 70 bottles.

21. Walthall Church, Walthall, recognizes its Bible drillers. Shown, front, are Hanna Hood; back, Ben Anderson, Arey Wilson, Hailey Hitt, and Chris Anderson.



21. Walthall Church Bible drillers



22. Fredonia Church, New Albany



23. Corinth Church, Purvis



24. Pelahatchie Church Bible drillers

22. The GAs from Fredonia Church, New Albany, attended GA camp at Garaywa June 15 - 19. Shown are the participants.

24. Pelahatchie Church, Rankin Association, recognized its youth Bible drillers. Shown are the participants.

23. The Baptist Women of Corinth Church, Purvis, agreed to wear hats if the church reached its Annie Armstrong Easter Offering goal. Shown are the women.

MISSISSIPPI
BAPTISTS



La. church bus accident near Meridian kills student

MERIDIAN, Ms. (BP and local reports) — A teenage boy was killed, six people remained hospitalized, and several others suffered broken bones after a church bus crashed near Meridian involving students from First Church in Shreveport, La.

The bus was carrying more than 20 teenagers and adults on their way to Passport youth camp in Macon, Ga., on July 12 when a tire blew out and caused the bus to roll over at least three times on Interstate 20.

Elaine Blackwell, an administrative assistant at First Church, Shreveport, told Baptist Press the church's youth pastor, Jason Matlack, remained in intensive care at a Meridian hospital. He was expected to recover.

"Pray for our children. We had a family that lost a little boy. He was going to be a freshman in high school," Blackwell said.

The church identified the boy who was killed as Brandon Ugarte, and his funeral mass will be July 15 at the Cathedral of St. John Berchmans in Shreveport.

Two girls, including the daughter of the church's associate pastor for emerging ministries, were pinned under the bus when it rolled over, Blackwell said.

"Our associate pastor's daughter is the one that is so bad, and it's just touch and go. She needs brain surgery, and they can't even do that because she's not stable enough," she said.

Maggie Lee Henson, 12, daughter of associate pastor John Henson and his wife Jenni, is listed in critical condition at the University of Mississippi Medical Center in Jackson.

The other student who was pinned under the bus appears to be recovering, Blackwell said.

When the crash occurred, a unit from the Alabama National Guard happened to be traveling nearby, and the soldiers were able to upright the bus and provide immediate medical care.

Word of the crash began to spread just as Sunday morning worship services were beginning in Shreveport and Meridian. Churches in the Meridian area rushed to help,

including some members of First Church in Meridian.

"We had the chief deputy of the county sheriff's department in our church, and he stopped me right after the service because he got texted during the service," associate pastor Matt Snowden told BP. "We were able to call the pastor in Shreveport and get on it immediately."

Some of the victims were taken to hospitals in Meridian, and three went to the University of Mississippi Medical Center in Jackson.

"We initially helped the church in Shreveport find where everybody was," Snowden said. "Everybody was scattered. Then yesterday afternoon we helped with some small logistical things, moving bags around and helping people get to the airport. It's mainly stuff like that — picking up lunch and getting supper lined up and things like that. Buying socks for ladies who need socks — just little small things."

Because the victims were from a church youth group, Snowden said there wasn't much need for his church to provide counseling.

"You have built-in counseling mechanisms there already. They're really kind of leaning on each other," he said. "I think the role of the Meridian churches has not been so much direct pastoral care but handling all the junk that has to be handled — the small, practical things."

Fifteenth Avenue Church in Meridian was close to the crash site, so people from that church retrieved scattered luggage and took it to their building until it could be claimed.

Snowden also mentioned that Highland Church and Northcrest Church, both in Meridian, as well as a local Methodist church and a Catholic church, were on hand to help.

"I think most of the Baptist churches probably did feel a special kinship, but really all the churches in our community have felt the blow of this," Snowden said.

Blackwell of First Church, Shreveport, expressed gratitude for those in Meridian and at the hospital in Jackson who showed up to help in the aftermath of the crash.

"It's been an incredible outpouring of Christian love," she said.

Besides the six people who remain hospitalized, a statement on the church's website said the others who were injured had returned to Shreveport Sunday night with "broken bones, fractured collar bones, and lots of bruises."

The congregation had received word of the accident shortly before the morning worship service, and they rallied in prayer for the victims. That evening, a hymn service included prayer and periodic updates on the injured.

"Our congregation is leaning on our faith and confidence in God, balancing direct action with reliance on the goodness and power of God," Greg Hunt, pastor of First Church, Shreveport, said on the church's website, commanding volunteers for their "heroic support."

Wayne Smith, pastor of Fifteenth Avenue Church in Meridian, said people from his church were quick to help because "that's what you do."

ERLC: nominee 'unpredictable wildcard'

WASHINGTON (BP) — The Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission has announced its opposition to U.S. Supreme Court nominee Sonia Sotomayor, saying she is an "unpredictable wildcard" who will work to "redefine the law."

Sotomayor was nominated by President Obama to replace David Souter, who retired and was a member of the court's liberal bloc. If confirmed, she would be the first Hispanic to serve as a U.S. Supreme Court justice.

"After carefully examining her record as a lower court judge, we believe that Sotomayor should not be confirmed to serve on the nation's highest court," said ERLC President, Richard Land. "Sonia Sotomayor's record

reveals that she is perfectly willing to lift the blindfold of justice to achieve her desired result.

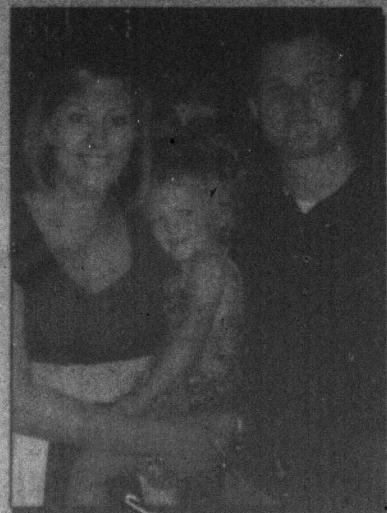
"She is a judge with a terribly flawed view of the judicial system at best or a judge who simply doesn't care what the law says at worst. She has constantly shown her lack of deference to the Constitution. She is the type of justice who instead of applying the law neutrally will redefine the law to conform to her policy preferences.

"Across the issues her record is either far too thin or hidden behind non-published orders and per curium opinions. Simply put, placing Sonia Sotomayor on the highest court in the land jeopardizes our nation's commitment to equal treatment under the law."

As previously reported in Baptist Press, Land does not support a proposed filibuster, saying it would be hypocritical to back one after opposing filibusters of President Bush's nominees.

"In the past month many senators have asked me about my judicial philosophy," Sotomayor observed in her opening statement at the beginning of confirmation hearings before the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee on July 13. "[It's] simple: fidelity to the law. The task of a judge is not to make law. It is to apply the law. And it is clear, I believe, that my record in two courts reflects my rigorous commitment to interpreting the Constitution according to its term."

STAFF CHANGES



1. The Middletons



2. The Wellses

1. Brian Middleton, youth minister at West End Church, West Point, was recently licensed to the Gospel ministry by the church. Shown with Middleton are wife Becky and daughter Baylon.

2. Chris Wells has been called as pastor of Corinth Church, Heidelberg. Shown with Wells is his wife Sarah.

3. Howard G. Beam has been called as pastor of First Church, Sardis. He is a graduate of Mississippi College and New Orleans Seminary.



Horton

1. Jonathan Griffin "Buster" Thomas, Jr., 81, died June 30 at his home. He was the son of Jonathan Griffin Thomas and Ida Beck Thomas. Thomas was a Baptist minister for 37 years, serving as song leader at Holcomb Church, Holcomb, deputy sheriff in Grenada County, city bus driver in Memphis, and school bus driver for 10 years. He was a Korean War veteran. He is survived by his wife, Elizabeth Johnson Thomas; daughter, Rita Friga (Robert), Enid; son, Danny Thomas, Holcomb; four sisters, one grandson, and one step-grandson. Clarence Cooper and C.H. Newcomb conducted services July 2 at Friendship East Church with interment in the church cemetery.

2. Walter R. Horton, 80, died June 18 at his home in Enterprise. He was laid to rest at a private family graveside June 22 in DeSoto. He was born Sept. 17, 1928, in Blaine, son of Jessie Broadway Horton and Walter Dee Horton. He grew up in Drew and was a 1946 graduate of Drew High School. He held degrees from Mississippi College and Southwestern Seminary and was a Korean War army veteran. He served as Baptist Campus Minister at Mississippi Delta Junior College, Mississippi College, Texas Christian University, Miss. State University, and at Louisiana State University for 22 years. He is survived by his wife of 56 years, Suzanne Carmichael Horton; two daughters, Angela Horton Guffey (Robert) of Conway, S.C., and Patricia Horton Tipton (Kenneth), Baton Rouge, La.; brother, Jeff Horton (Myrna), Enterprise; brother and sister in law, Gilbert and Deanie White Carmichael, Meridian, and their families; four grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

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REVIVALS AND HOMECOMINGS

1. Springfield Church, Natchez: Homecoming, July 26; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m., followed by covered dish lunch; Gene Rowland, speaker.
2. Harmony Church, Winston Association: Revival, July 19 - 24; Sun., 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.; Mon. - Fri., 7 p.m.; Andre Dobson, speaker; Scott Gregory, music; Jerry Lundy, pastor.
3. Simmons Memorial Church, Flora: Homecoming and 50th anniversary, Aug. 2, 10 a.m., with lunch on the grounds; Jeff Steele, speaker; Proclamation, Greg Whitehead, Jeff and Sherry Steele, music.
4. Grace Church, Calhoun City: 65th anniversary and revival, July 26 - 29; Sun., worship, 10:30 a.m., followed by lunch and afternoon services, 1:30 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Steve Holliday, speaker; Lowery Guest, music; Lisa Hill, pianist; Carl Morris, pastor.
5. Arlington Church, Bogue Chitto: Revival, July 19 - 22; Sun., Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m., followed by lunch and afternoon worship, 1:30 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Randy Lewman, speaker; Chad Moak, music.
6. First Church, Satartia: Homecoming and revival, July 19 - 22; Sun., 11 a.m., followed by afternoon song service; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Caleb Clark, speaker; Bill and Martha Martin, music.
7. Lucien Church, Lucien: 100th anniversary, Aug. 2; services, 10:30 a.m., followed by lunch; all former pastors and members welcomed.
8. Mt. Vernon Church, Liberty: Homecoming, July 19, 10:30 a.m., followed by covered dish lunch; Merlin Liverman, speaker; Clint Penalber, pastor and music.
9. Mission Hill Church, Wesson: Revival and homecoming, July 19 - 22; Sun., services at 10 a.m.; worship, 10:45 a.m., followed by lunch; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Jimmy Porter, speaker; Harvey Magee, music.
10. Holly Springs, Foxworth: Revival, July 19 - 24; Sun., 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; David Grumbach, speaker; Rex Lucas and sons, music; Ron Jordan, pastor.
11. Mt. Moriah Church, Heg Chain, Lincoln County: Revival, July 19 - 23; Sun., 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.; Mon. - Thurs., 7 p.m.; Wayne Moak, speaker; Danny Moss, pastor.
12. Line Creek Church, Morton: Revival, July 26 - 29; Sun., 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Malcolm Ellis, speaker; Donnie and Cynthia Stuart, music; Tal Vardaman, pastor.
13. First Church, Clara: Revival, July 19 - 22; Sun., 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Oliver Cagle, speaker; McKay Pierce, music; Richard Bradley, pastor.
14. New Henleyfield Church, Pearl River County: Homecoming, July 26; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m., followed by potluck meal and building dedication; Billy Warren, speaker.
15. McAdams Church, Sallis: Revival, July 19 - 22; Sun., 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Ralph Hunt, Greg Spencer, Don Cook, Junior Davis, and John Robert Ballard, speakers; James Young, pastor.
16. Rock Hill Church, Mt. Olive: Revival, July 19 - 22; Sun., 10:30 a.m. followed by dinner on the grounds; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Sonny Adkins, speaker; Daniel Lee, music; Nelson Crozier, pastor.
17. Topisaw Church, Bogue Chitto: Revival, July 19 - 24; 7:30 p.m. nightly; Ed Wright, speaker; Joseph Moree, music.
18. Academy Church, Tippah County: Revival, July 19 - 22; 7 p.m. nightly; Randy Isbell, speaker; Tom Young, music; Earl Barron, pastor.
19. Baxterville Church, Lumberton: Revival, July 26 - 31; Sun., 11 a.m., followed by dinner on the grounds; Mon. - Fri., 7 p.m.; Danny Henderson, speaker; Robert Bolin, music.



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GIFTS OF HONOR AND MEMORY

A portion of The Village View is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals choose to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful, and helpful section. If you would like to honor or remember someone by name, please do so in the honor with taste and respect. Your gift will have been specially acknowledged in this special section.

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Mrs. Lee (Helen) Jackson
Jimmy & Jo Jenkins
Bill James
Mr. & Mrs. Gird Warren
Mr. Virgil Jamagin
Mr. & Mrs. Curtis A.
Buchanan
Mrs. Mattie Jenkins
Mr. & Mrs. John Logan
& Leigh
Alicia A. Jewell
Rev. & Mrs. Sonny
Jewell
Bob Tom Johnson, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. James L.
Eason
Marvin Johnston
Mr. & Mrs. Gerald
Buchanan
Mr. Willie Joiner
Mr. & Mrs. Lendon E.
Brown
Elizabeth Jones
Mr. & Mrs. H. H.
Singletary
Mrs. Eula Jones
Mr. & Mrs. John Logan
& Leigh
Uncle of Martha Jones
Glenda & Jerry Fry
Ruby Jones
O'Zion BC-Meadville
Mrs. Bessie Ruth Kelum
Mrs. Edith M. Aldridge
Mr. & Mrs. Mike
Lammom
Mrs. Janet Kelly
Dr. & Mrs. Jay Hubbard
Wayne Kent
Mr. & Mrs. Percy J.
Peeler
Sidney "Bubba" Kilgore
Tonya & Daniel
Ashworth
Mr. Grover Lee Kyle
Mr. & Mrs. Jeff Boucher
Mr. & Mrs. W. P. Brown
III
Mr. & Mrs. Robert
Mims
Mrs. Norma V.
Caldwell
Lee & Gena Mattox
Chris & Eddie Guillot
Mr. & Mrs. Richard E.
Truitt
Bernell Ledbetter
Mr. Don Evans
Julie Lee
Mr. & Mrs. Tom
Coward Jr.
Mrs. Hattie Lee
Rev. & Mrs. Jimmy
Breland
Mr. Lexie Lishman
Jimmy & Jo Jenkins
Anna Rae Lloyd
Mrs. Otoh S. Johnson Jr.
Mrs. Imogene B. Loper
Rod's Clinton Auto
Supply
Mr. Jim Murdock
Mr. & Mrs. James S.
Slater
Ms. Sara H. Perkins
Ms. Betty Blaylock
Dr. & Mrs. Gerald J.
Hasselman
Virginia & John Martin
MC, School of Educ.
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Boland
Edith Nell Magee
Mr. & Mrs. James L.
McCaleb
Ms. Vera Hersey &
Family
Karen Stoddard &
Family
Mrs. Louise Lee Magers
Mr. & Mrs. Curtis A.
Buchanan
Robert "Bob" Mangum
Mrs. Joyce C. Allen
Mrs. Elizabeth P. Tullos
& Family
Tyler Maret
Mr. & Mrs. Henry F.
Downs
Roy J. McAllister III
Thomas & Martha
Spears
Mary M. McCollum
Mr. & Mrs. Jerry D.
Hyer Sr.

Married Couple Needed for Houseparents Position

The Baptist Children's Village has an opening for a Christian, mission-minded, husband and wife team without dependent children to serve in the position of houseparents. Houseparents receive an excellent salary with benefits and work a 10 days on, 5 days off work schedule. All qualified candidates must be at least 25 years of age, have a high energy level, excellent driving record and no criminal history. They also must have at a minimum a high school education or GED equivalent. A private bedroom and meals are included while on duty. For more information please contact Kathy Flournoy at kflournoy@baptistchildrensvillage.com or 601-664-8085.

BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE

Living in the Spirit

Genesis 1:2; John 7:37-39; Acts 4:29-31; 5:3-4;
I Corinthians 12:4-7

By Lori Clendinning

It happened fifteen years ago, but the Delta ice storm of early 1994 remains fiercely fixed in my memory. Weeks without electrical power, heat, and food shortages were just a few of the things people endured. The National Guard, firefighters, police, and electricians sent from neighboring states worked tirelessly and were gratefully welcomed during a most stressful and frustrating time.

Our Immanuel Baptist Church family in Cleveland suffered a tremendous loss when a church member, in the midst of sawing tree limbs, fell unexpectedly to his death. The entire town was shocked as it learned of the death of this beloved husband, father, son, teacher, and coach. Terribly

saddened and electronically crippled, the church staff and members were determined to do whatever they could to help ease the Smith family's grief.

About an hour before the funeral service was to be conducted, an out-of-state utility truck carefully made its way up the debris-strewn street and, upon learning of the situation, the workers hooked up a temporary line in order to provide partial electricity. Ninety minutes later, there was no heat in the building, but the overflowing crowd of mourners heard the comforting words of the pastor through the fully functioning sound system.

Immediately afterwards, the electricians unhooked the temporary wires and went on their way to their previously



assigned post. Many days went by before power was fully accessible to that area of town, but the provision of God through those power line workers is something I haven't forgotten.

Now, what does that have to do with our Sunday School lesson? We're studying the Holy Spirit this week, the One given to us by Jesus to give us power to do His work. He is ever present in our lives, but oftentimes, it seems as if the power has gone out. But, just like those electrical lines during the ice storm, the power was still there, just not fully accessible until the electrical worker connected us.

Our power line worker is the Holy Spirit. Yes, when we came to Christ as first-time believers, the Holy Spirit was placed within us to accomplish all that God wants from us. But too often, we forget to ask for His daily help, and end up attempting Kingdom work on our own power, not His. Or, worse still,

we act as if we do not have any power at all in which to operate. Sometimes we are so accustomed to the blessings and ease that God provides, we often neglect to "power up" through the Holy Spirit in order to do the work He's assigned us.

God's Word tells us throughout the Old and New Testaments that His Spirit is active in His creation. We can be assured that the Holy Spirit still hovers in our lives, much like an eagle protecting and caring for its young. The Spirit gives us access to unimaginable power, but we must be plugged into Him daily.

To those who believe in Jesus, the Holy Spirit brings spiritual life and quenches spiritual thirst. He lives within us and He can refresh us spiritually, moment by moment. Peter and John prayed for boldness when they were directed to stop preaching in Jesus' name, and the Spirit immediately delivered a fresh endowment of power. We, too, can rely on the Spirit to give us boldness and courage when we attempt to share the Gospel.

Now, please be aware, the

Spirit's work isn't an ecstatic manifestation, but rather a holy empowering, designated to build up the church and to make us more aware of God's presence in our lives. He brings us specifically designed gifts that will benefit the entire church body.

If His gifts are not visibly seen in our churches, might it be that some of us have yet to unwrap His gifts?

Certainly, those who are gifted as teachers should be willingly serving in classrooms. Those gifted with mercy will be found with their arms around those who are hurting, in funeral homes, prisons, hospital and nursing home rooms. Holy Spirit-gifted administrators are thoughtfully planning for kingdom growth, and the encouragers are all over the church, in word and deed, using their special giftedness to bless others.

Still not sure what your gift looks like? Ask the Spirit for help in unwrapping yours this week. Remember, He's got the power!

Clendinning is a member of First Baptist Church, Brandon.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

When Common Sense Isn't Enough

James 1:18

By Jim Burnett

What an awesome experience when a person realizes life in God. Equally amazing, however, is when that same person realizes God in life. For the next seven weeks our lessons will focus on applying faith in Christ to daily living. All five chapters of James offer us practical insight as to how faith in Jesus not only transfers to daily living but transforms daily living.

Today we look specifically at the divine wisdom available to us as believers, understanding that human logic or common sense often is insufficient for handling what we have on our hands and on our minds.

To Endure Trials

(James 1:2-8)

Someone has said if you are not currently going through a trial, you are about to. Life has



to James in verse 5, God is waiting to download a generous supply of His eternal knowledge into our minds. So go ahead and request insight from above. And remember, God will never reprimand us for asking too much of

Him, only for asking too little. To Put Wealth Into Perspective (James 1:9-11)

Most Americans who have had their retirements vested in stocks in the past year have been thoroughly and painfully educated, via the slumping economy, of how temporal wealth is. James reminds us to anchor our lives to God who is eternal instead of portfolios which are not. There is absolutely nothing wrong with having wealth as long as it doesn't have you. By the way, a man down to his last dollar can misplace his faith in that dollar just like a man who trusts in his million dollars.

To Resist Temptation (James 1:13-15)

The wisdom of God warns believers to the dangers of succumbing to temptation and reminds us that we are able, in Christ, to resist all evil. James minces no words in communicating the fact that every Christian is responsible for his or her decisions. We can not and should not play the blame game when it comes to our wrong doing.

Therefore it is incumbent on God's children to make wise decisions. Do not put yourself in a compromising position or situation. Know your weaknesses and stay away from anything that lures you from God. When temptation knocks, and it will, let Jesus answer the door.

To Acknowledge God's Gifts (James 1:12, 16-18)

The wisdom of God not only helps us navigate through temptation but this heavenly insight also encourages us to praise God from whom all blessings flow. According to James every good thing and every perfect gift is a care package sent to us courtesy of our heavenly Father.

Therefore, as recipients of salvation, eternal life, forgiveness, and a multitude of other heavenly blessings, let us raise the praise to our God. Make some noise and let people know that our God reigns and our God rocks. He takes wonderful care of his children, supplying all of our needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus (Phil 4:19).

Give the Lord daily credit for his daily goodness in your life. Understand and appreciate His generosity. Thank him for the air you breath, the clean water you drink, the job that gives you earning power which puts food on your table and the health to do the job. Be grateful for your family and friends, your neighbors and coworkers. Thank the Lord for allowing you to live in a free country where you have choices. And as the psalmist said, let us praise God continuously for, "From the rising of the sun to the place where it sets, the name of the Lord is to be praised" (Psalm 113:3 NIV).

Burnett is pastor of Willow Pointe Church, Hattiesburg.

Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

THE BAPTIST RECORD

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital prints are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if

submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lit. Cell phone photographs and other low resolution items are generally not publishable. Photographs can not be returned. Please do not attach photos with tape or staples.

All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. Photographs must depict people. No landscape-, building-, or object-only photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. News items and/or photographs depicting benefits and activities for secular or outside organizations will not be published. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis.

Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.

FCC set to implement wireless microphone decision

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Churches across the country eventually will have to replace wireless microphone systems operating in the 700 megahertz range, but the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) decision on the specifics of when and how is still pending.

The issue arose with the digital television switchover that was finalized in June. During analog days, broadcasters had access to channels 2-69, but the digital switch compressed them to channels 2-51, freeing up frequencies that the FCC auctioned off to national and local bidders.

Before the switchover, broadcasters like ABC, CBS, NBC, and Fox were using channels 2-69 essentially as a gift from the government in exchange for airing local news and other programming. That's still the case with channels 2-51.

Wireless microphones, meanwhile, were allowed to operate in that same frequency range without charge wherever they could find space. But now that the FCC has leased channels 52-69 to major corporations, that space — also known as the 700 MHz range — can't be used for free.

"Now you're looking at the wireless mics that were operating in the 700 MHz range that now are potentially not going to be able to operate because

that spectrum has now been sold," Matt Nodine, chief of staff for the wireless telecommunications bureau at the FCC, told Baptist Press July 9.

"Whereas before it was 'given' to broadcasters, it's now been leased essentially by major corporations — Verizon and AT&T were the two biggest bidders. Together they bid about \$12 billion," Nodine said.

A significant portion of the 700 MHz range has been reserved for public safety use, including police, fire and other first responders. "Obviously, we don't want to cause interference to them as they're out there doing their jobs," Nodine said.

Another portion of the band is reserved for groups that are licensed to use the 700 MHz space, such as Broadway shows and major sporting events. That means those who don't fall in one of those three categories — corporations leasing the space, first responders, or licensed users — will have to find another spectrum in which to operate.

In addition to churches, other wireless microphone users of this variety include university professors, business executives, parent-teacher organizations, and anyone who uses wireless microphones on a smaller scale. Nodine said. For them, it becomes a matter of operating

as unauthorized users within the 700 MHz range.

Not all wireless microphones used by churches and others operate within that spectrum, though, so not all microphones will have to be replaced. Even so, it could be costly. For instance, some of the higher end wireless microphone systems cost about \$2,000 each.

"Those are the ones that are designed to work within that frequency range, so those are the ones that will be affected," Chip Leake, worship pastor at the Nashville-area Thompson Station Church in Tennessee, told BP.

"They seem to carry the signal better with a lot less chance of signal dropout. That's the reason they want the 700 MHz bandwidth to be open. The signal travels farther on less energy within that bandwidth than it does as you go outside of that bandwidth," Leake said, noting his church will have to replace about \$6,000 worth of equipment.

Another issue about which churches have been wondering is the development of TV Band Devices (TVBDs), which could include next-generation mobile phones and mobile broadband cards for laptop computers that will utilize white spaces to access the Internet. White spaces are the channels that exist between the

channels that are being used for broadcasting. For example, if a local ABC affiliate broadcasts on channel 10, then channels 9 and 11 may be white spaces. The FCC is requiring that all white space devices avoid transmitting on TV channels being used by TV stations, wireless microphones, and other users.

TVBDs, in order to be approved by the FCC, will have spectrum sensing capabilities to detect and avoid TV stations, wireless microphones, and other users of the spectrum, but spectrum sensing technology is still under development and some wireless microphone users have expressed concern about whether the plan will work. For instance, a pastor wouldn't want his sermon interrupted by someone's white space device.

Leake, the worship pastor, said the white space issue hasn't affected his church yet because Google, Microsoft, and other companies are still developing the technology for the devices. Some experts have said the earliest they expect it to be available to consumers is late this year and as the devices emerge, churches that haven't switched out their 700 MHz equipment run the risk of experiencing interference.

Nodine of the FCC said most of the 700 MHz wireless micro-

phone systems already are off the shelves, and they aren't being sold to average users anymore. "Now the question becomes, 'Do people have to replace the systems?' There's no grandfathering in," he said. "It's not like you can sit there and continue to use the 700 MHz wireless for another 15 years until the system goes out."

As it stands now, the FCC has issued a warning that the day will come when churches and other organizations will have to stop using equipment that operates within the 700 MHz band, but there is no firm deadline. The commission is transitioning to a new chairman, and a decision may be several months away.

A significant number of churches purchase equipment from a company called Shure, and Shure has announced a rebate program of up to \$1,000 for the trade-in of Shure 700 MHz frequency band wireless systems and for any other manufacturers' qualifying 700 MHz frequency band wireless systems and their related components until the end of the year. Customers may submit rebate forms with the purchase of certain replacement products, and more information is available at www.shure.com/rebate.

WCU breaks ground for School of Osteopathic Medicine



William Carey University (WCU) in Hattiesburg recently broke ground for the building that will house the university's proposed School of Osteopathic Medicine, scheduled to open in August 2010. The \$11.1 million, 49,000-square-foot complex will be located next to the Thomas Business Building, in the northwest corner of the campus off Tuscan Avenue. William Carey University is affiliated with the Mississippi Baptist Convention. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)